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1. A method comprising:

detecting the coupling of a power sink to a power

3 source; and

sending a data signal between the source and the sink to determine whether the source can provide power to

6 the sink.

- 2. The method of claim 1 including detecting the coupling of a plurality of power sinks to the power source and sending the data signal between the source and each sink to determine whether the source can provide power to each sink.
- 3. The method of claim 1 wherein detecting the
 coupling of a power sink to a power source includes
 receiving a self-identifier packet at the source from the
 sink.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 including requesting a power class indication from the sink.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4 including receiving a power class indication from the sink.

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- 1 6. The method of claim 2 including determining the 2 available power of the source based on the power 3 requirements of a particular sink.
- 7. The method of claim 2 including determining whether to supply power to a given sink based on the power requirements of any sinks already coupled to said source and the power capacity of said source.
- 1 8. The method of claim 2 including supplying 2 sufficient power for enumeration to a sink coupled to said 3 source.
- 9. The method of claim 8 wherein if the source is unable to supply power to the sink, refusing to supply power to said sink except for enumeration.
 - 10. The method of claim 1 including sending an identifier to said source that is used by the source to determine whether the source can supply power to said sink.
- 1 1. An article comprising a medium storing
- 2 instructions that enable a processor-based system to:
- detect the coupling of a power sink to a power
 - source; and

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send a data signal between the source and the sink to determine whether the source can provide power to the sink.

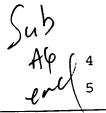
- 1 12. The article of claim 11 further storing
 2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
 3 detect a coupling of a plurality of power sinks to the
 4 power source and send the data signal between the source
 5 and each sink to determine whether the source can provide
 6 power to each sink.
 - 13. The article of claim 11 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to receive a self-identifier packet from the sink.
 - instructions that enable the processor-based system to request a power class indication from the sink.
 - 15. The article of claim 14 further storing instructions that enable the processor-based system to receive a power class indication from the sink.
- 1 16. The article of claim 11 further storing
 2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to

- 3 determine its available power based on the power
- 4 requirements of a sink.
- 1 17. The article of claim 11 further storing
- 2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
- determine whether to supply power to a given sink based on
- 4 the power requirements of sinks already coupled to the
- 5 source and the power capacity of said source.
- 1 18. The article of claim 12 further storing
- 2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to
- 3 supply sufficient power for enumeration to any sink coupled
- 4 to said source.
- 1 19. The article of claim 18 further storing
- 2 instructions that enable the processor-based system, if the
- 3 source is unable to apply power to the sink, to refuse to
- 4 supply power to the sink except for enumeration.
- 1 20. The article of claim 11 further storing
- 2 instructions that enable the processor-based system to use
- 3 an identifier from a sink to determine whether the source
- 4 can supply power to the sink.
 - 21. A system comprising:
- 2 \times a connection to a source of power;

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Sub	3	a plurality of ports to couple said system to
	4	power consuming devices; and
	5	a processor-based device which analyzes
	6	information received from power consuming devices and
	7	determines whether to supply power to said power consuming
	8	devices through said ports.
<u> </u>	-\	
	1	22. The system of claim 21 wherein said system
	2	includes a fan out physical layer.
	1	23. The system of claim 21 wherein said system
	2	includes an AC adapter.
	1	24. The system of claim 21 wherein said processor-
	2	based device determines whether to provide power to a power
	[.] 3	consuming device is connected to said system.
		
	1	25. The system of claim 24 wherein said system
	2	provides power to the power consuming device for
	3	enumeration and then determines whether to provide
	4	additional power to said power consuming device.
	1	26. A system comprising:
	2	power consuming circuitry;
	3	a processor-based/device; and
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a port connectable to receive power from a power source and to exchange a data with said power source.

- 1 27. The system of claim 26 wherein said system is a mobile computer system.
- 1 28. The system of claim 26 wherein said system
- 2 includes a physical layer integrated with a link layer.
- 1 29. The system of claim 26 wherein said system
- 2 includes a data plug.
- 1 30. The system of claim 26 wherein said device
- 2 generates a self-ID packet that indicates the power needs
- 3 of said system.